

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /062 W

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R 141240Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0010

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 1026

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EC

SUBJECT: TURMOIL IN EDUCATIONAL DISPUTE RESULTS IN DEATH OF
PROFESSOR

1. FESTERING DIFFERENCES OVER ADMINISTRATION OF QUITO MUNICIPAL
GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL FERNANDEZ MADRID WERE PUNCTUATED LAST
WEEK BY STREET DEMONSTRATIONS STAGED BY STUDENTS IN NARROW
STREETS IN CENTER OF COLONIAL QUITO. POLICE MET THESE DEMON-
STRATIONS WITH TEAR GAS AND BY USE OF WATER CANNON. REPEATED
ATTEMPTS TO ARRIVE AT SOLUTION TO PROBLEM WERE FRUSTRATED BY
INTERFERENCE OF STUDENT GROUPS UNDER RADICAL CHINESE-ORIENTED
COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. QUITO'S MAYOR THEREFORE CLOSED SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 8, AND APPOINTED ARMY COLONEL INTERIM PRINCIPAL
WHILE FURTHER INQUIRY INTO CONTROVERSY TAKES PLACE.

STUDENTS (NOT GIRLS) STAGING DEMONSTRATION IN CITY MORNING FEBRUARY
12 AIMED AT EMBARRASING MAYOR, WERE MET BY POLICE USING TEAR GAS.
IN MELEE WHICH RESULTED, INNOCENT PASSERBY PROFESSOR HECTOR
BURBANO WAS SHOT AND KILLED.

3. DECEASED HAD DISTINGUISHED PEDAGOGIC CAREER AND WAS FORMER
OAS OFFICIAL. HIS DEATH HAS AROUSED INDIGNATION OF CITIZENRY
AND ARMED FORCES. BURBANO WAS FATHER OF ARMY CAPTAIN EDGAR

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GUSTAVO BURBANO PAREDES.

4. COMMENT: UNTIL THE DEATH OF BURBANO, DISPUTE OVER FERNANDEZ MADRID HIGH SCHOOL AND RESULTING DEMONSTRATIONS WERE RATHER ROUTINE OCCURANCES IN ECUADOREAN EDUCATIONAL AND POLITICAL SCENE. THESE EVENTS HAVE NOW, HOWEVER, BECOME LINKED WITH THE KILLING OF A PROMINENT CITIZEN AND THE APPROACH OF THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE RODRIGUEZ REGIME (FEBRUARY 15), A TIME WHEN OPPOSITIONISTS HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN STIRRING UP TROUBLE. WE HAVE NO RPT NO REASON TO EXPECT EVENTS TO GET OUT OF HAND BUT, WE CANNOT EXCLUDE THE PROSPECT OF SOME CONTINUED LOW-LEVEL AGITATION OF THE KIND WHICH HAS ALREADY OCCURRED AND THE ATTENDANT RISK OF RECURRING INCIDENTS SUCH AS THE ONE DESCRIBED ABOVE.
BREWSTER

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